

**Ambassador Mull's Opening Remarks for  
The U.S. "Industry Days"  
February 11, 2015**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to open the U.S. "Industry Days" in Poland. Thank you to Minister Bąk and the Polish Ministry of Economy for hosting this two-day conference. Thanks as well to my colleagues from the U.S. Department of Defense who prepared the conference program. This includes personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Missile Defense Agency, European Command, and the Navy.

**U.S. – Poland Security Partnership**

This conference builds on the growing U.S. – Poland security partnership -- a partnership that has reached new heights in recent years.

In 2012, we established the U.S. Aviation Detachment at Łask Air Base, which contributed to our larger joint effort to train more than 3,000 U.S. military personnel in Poland in 2013. Thanks to the Aviation Detachment, we were able to bring American F-16s and air support crews to Poland within days of Russia's seizure of Crimea. In addition to fighter pilots, Poland has welcomed rotating forces of U.S. ground troops, including the first active duty U.S. army tanks ever to train on Polish territory. This enhanced presence of U.S. military personnel in Poland will continue through at least 2015.

**Industry Days**

And soon our close security relationship will take on new dimensions in the form of concrete, bricks, and mortar. In 2016 we will break ground on the ballistic missile defense site in Redzikowo. The United States will also fund a number of smaller infrastructure projects designed to bolster Poland's capacity to receive and host an influx of NATO troops.

Over the next two days, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will explain what types of tenders will be announced in 2015, and how companies can bid on U.S.-funded construction and service contracts to be implemented in Poland.

Our goal for these sessions is that all interested companies will understand the bidding rules, requirements, and contracting procedures. We want every company to have a fair shot at winning U.S. government-funded construction contracts, including those that may bid on U.S. tenders for the first time.

**EPAA Ballistic Missile Defense Base in Redzikowo**

Among the expected contracts, the largest will be for the U.S. ballistic missile defense site at Redzikowo Air Base.

Missile defense is a critically important part of NATO security, and the United States deeply appreciates Poland's contributions to the NATO missile defense effort. Poland plans to spend an estimated \$10 billion USD on integrated air and missile defense systems over the next ten years. This is in addition to Poland's decision to host an American missile defense base at Redzikowo.

The Redzikowo base is the third stage of an integrated U.S. missile defense system called the "European Phased Adaptive Approach." The Redzikowo base will complement the missile defense site that we are building in Deveselu, Romania, as well as missile defense assets deployed on U.S. Naval Destroyers that are based in Spain.

Construction on the Redzikowo site will start in 2016. The facility is expected to be fully operational in 2018, and host 200 to 300 U.S. naval personnel.

### **European Reassurance Initiative**

In addition to Redzikowo, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects to offer tenders this year for construction projects in Poland that will be funded through the United States' "European Reassurance Initiative."

President Obama announced the European Reassurance Initiative during his visit to Poland in June. Under this initiative, the U.S. allocated roughly \$1 billion to bolster NATO's defense capabilities, particularly on the territory of NATO Allies and partners in Central and Eastern Europe. These funds support military exercises on land, in the air, and at sea, while sustaining a rotational presence of U.S. troops across NATO's eastern flank. In addition, the European Reassurance Initiative will fund construction projects in Poland that will enhance Poland's ability to host deployments of U.S. and other NATO troops for rotational training exercises.

The Polish Ministry of National Defense is reviewing potential ERI-funded construction projects. These include improvements to range and training areas, as well as new reception and staging facilities.

### **Closing**

All of this construction means excellent business prospects for individual firms. More broadly, these projects signal another step forward in U.S.-Polish military cooperation. They are tangible evidence that the United States and Poland are strengthening NATO's defense capabilities and protecting our citizens from all threats, near and far.

Thank you for your attention and your presence here today. I wish you an informative conference.